

COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT

TOPIC Hungarian and Soviet Troop Units

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Signal Training Battalion in Polgardi.

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1. In mid-January 1950, a signal training battalion, [] was quartered in the new barracks installation on the northern edge of Polgardi (P 48/E 08), on the west side of the road to Szekesfehervar (Q 48/Z 00). The installation consisted of a two-story headquarters building, a large three-story barracks building, a low kitchen and mess building with recreation room, an officers' mess, 2 large garages, and several small subsidiary buildings. [] in 1950, construction work was done in the barracks area, where allegedly armored and artillery units were scheduled to be quartered. [] the signal training battalion was transferred to Szekesfehervar in January 1951.

2. The unit superior to the battalion was unknown. [] The battalion was organized into battalion headquarters, a light and a heavy telephone company, a switchboard company, a line construction company, and a radio company. It totaled about 20 officers, about 15 NCOs, and 400 PM. The heavy telephone company [] was organized into a headquarters and 2 platoons, each consisting of 3 squads averaging 10 or 11 men. Soldiers of this company were armed with model M-48 7.62-mm rifles while squad leaders carried submachine guns with drum magazines. Signal troops wore dark-blue service color and lightning insignia.

3. Officers of the battalion included Major Raffay (fnu), commanding officer, who was formerly a worker of the Lang Engine Factory; Junior Lieutenant Szoeké (fnu), political officer; Captain Zsanady (fnu), paymaster; and Junior Lieutenant Miklos Toldi, commanding officer of the heavy telephone company, and ex-NCO.

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7. The regiment was armed with model M-48 x 7.62-mm rifles and submachine guns with drum magazines. It was equipped with about 20 x 3-ton Raba trucks, about 40 Csepel trucks, 40 to 50 Soviet Gats jeeps and about 30 Hungarian radio trucks. Motor vehicle numbers could not be identified.

8. In early February 1950, the regiment held an exercise of 2 weeks near Kisd (Q 48/U 65), practicing exclusively line construction by day and by night. The telephone battalion emphasized training in establishing an axis of signal communication. ** In August 1950, the bulk of the regiment participated in the fall maneuvers of the Hungarian Army in the Kiskun-telepyhaza (Y 7/O 03) area.

In mid-September 1950, the personnel of the regiment were politically screened, and most of them were selected for NCO or officers' training. About 10 percent of the soldiers were reassigned to various signal units because of their political unreliability.

9. In May 1950, an instruction course for field-grade officers and an instruction course for signal officers were held in the Petoefi Barracks. An AAA signal school was also located there at that time. In and after July 1950, female radio and switchboard operators were trained in courses of 3, 6 and 12 months in the barracks.

10. [redacted] about 400 troops [redacted] wore dark-blue (indigo-blue) service color and lightning insignia. Moving to Mt Sashegy or the Kelenfold Meadows, the units had radio sets and wire reels on wheelbarrows with them. The barracks installation also quartered units of women who wore khaki uniforms, Soviet garrison caps, and laced boots.

Independent Signal Battalion in the New Barracks Installation on Budavarsi Street.

11. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
It was the first unit to be quartered in the new barracks installation which as yet had no designation. ** Clerks of the battalion said that the unit was allegedly assigned to the High Command of AAA Troops which was located in the same barracks installation. In early 1951 [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] the independent signal battalion was to move to the Dozsa Gyorgy Barracks, whereas a searchlight unit was to move to the new barracks installation. The transfer had not occurred by 18 February 1951.

12. The battalion was organized into a headquarters, and EM school, a radio company, and a telephone company. Officers of the battalion headquarters included Senior Lieutenant Bela Juhasz, commanding officer, who formerly was assigned to the signal regiment in the Petoefi Barracks; Junior Lieutenant Molnar Marko, adjutant, who was formerly assigned to the signal regiment; Lieutenant Ferenc Fosa, political officer, a postwar officer; Lieutenant Istvan Kovacs, chief of staff, who was formerly assigned to the signal regiment; Junior Lieutenant Bela Cintula, supply officer; Junior Lieutenant Leodi (fnu), motor transport officer; and Senior Lieutenant Bueki (fnu), personnel officer, a postwar officer. The EM school, postal No 9563/a, was commanded by Senior Lieutenant Mihaly Gyocere who was about 50 years of age, and had about 160 men who were organized into 4 radio platoons and 1 light telephone platoon. The school trained, in 6-month courses, soldiers of various AAA units who wore white-bordered red epauletts. The radio company [redacted] was commanded by Lieutenant 25X1
Ivan (fnu), and numbered 60 men. The telephone company [redacted] 25X1
was commanded by Junior Lieutenant Lazar Kaity, who graduated from the signal officers' school in August 1950, and numbered about 80 men. It was

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organized into a headquarters, a light and a heavy telephone platoon, and a switchboard platoon. The light telephone platoon consisted of 5 squads of 7 men each, and the heavy platoon of 2 squads of 11 men each. The switchboard platoon had 2 squads with a total of 17 men. It was equipped with an old Hungarian switchboard with 30 extensions and a Soviet switchboard with 10 extensions. The battalion totaled 15 officers, 12 NCOs, and 360 BM, about 330 of whom were newly inducted on 23 October 1950.

12. The battalion was armed only with rifles and submachine guns. It was equipped with 8 Raba and Gsepel 3-ton trucks, 6 radio trucks and 5 to 6 Soviet jeeps.
13. From late October to late December 1950, the battalion conducted basic infantry training and then practiced line construction for two weeks in Balatonkenese (P 48/D 88). Returning from there in mid-January 1951, source saw several barracks buildings occupied by Soviet troops in Szekesfehervar, on the southside of the main road to Budapest. He saw Soviet sentries posted at four entrances of the barracks buildings.
14. Each company of the battalion had a party organization and an organization of the Democratic Youth Movement (Demokratikus Ifjusag Szovegetsege) (DISZ). On 1 January 1951, the battalion introduced half-monthly payment, a private being paid 30 forints, a private first class 39 forints, a corporal 48 forints, a staff lance corporal 57 forints, a non-regular NCO 66 forints, a non-regular sergeant 55 forints, and a non-regular master sergeant 84 forints. Regular first sergeants were paid 730 forints per month, regular NCOs in command of platoons 810 forints, junior lieutenants 900 to 1,100 forints, and senior lieutenants 1,200 forints. Battalion commanders received additional pay of 600 forints per month. The payment of lieutenants was unknown to source.

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17. On 18 February 1951, [redacted] 3 or 4 Soviet soldiers at the railroad station in Győr (P 48/Y 44). [redacted] Soviet troops were still stationed in Győr, but were given no town leave.

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